

**IN THE CLAIMS CANCEL**

Please cancel claims 1-10 without prejudice.

**IN THE CLAIMS ADD**

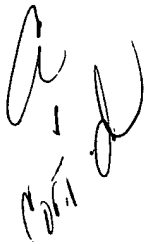
Please add claims 11-27 as follows:

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11. A flat, flexible laminated composite material comprising:
    - a liquid-impermeable layer (14), and
    - a liquid-absorbent layer (16) bonded to the liquid-impermeable layer (14),wherein a support layer (12) comprising a flexible network layer (34) carries the liquid-impermeable layer (14).
  12. The laminated composite material according to claim 11, wherein the liquid-impermeable layer is a film or sheet material (14).
  13. The laminated composite material according to claim 12, wherein the liquid-absorbent layer (16) includes a pile (22) of a material (24).
  14. The laminated composite material according to claim 13, wherein the material (24) is selected from the group consisting of cotton, cotton fibers, and wool.
  15. The laminated composite material according to claim 11, wherein the liquid-

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absorbent layer (16) includes a pile (22) of a material (24).

16. The laminated composite material according to claim 15, wherein the material (24) is selected from the group consisting of cotton, cotton fibers, and wool.
17. The laminated composite material according to claim 15, wherein the liquid-absorbent layer (16) comprises a fleecy material.
18. The laminated composite material according to claim 11, wherein the liquid-absorbent layer (16) is a fleece layer.
19. The laminated composite material according to claim 12, wherein the liquid-absorbent layer (16) is a fleece layer.
20. The laminated composite material according to claim 11, wherein the liquid-absorbent layer (16) contains microcapsules (28);
- the microcapsules (28) being filled with a substance (32); and
  - wherein the microcapsules (28) include a covering (30) that can be degraded or destroyed by at least one of pressure, temperature or moisture.
21. The laminated composite material according to claim 20, wherein the liquid

 absorbant layer (16) includes a pile (22) of a material (24), and wherein the liquid absorbant layer (16) contains microcapsules (28), and means for adhering the microcapsules (28) to the material (24) of the pile (22).

22. The laminated composite material according to claim 21, wherein the adhering means comprises a bonding agent (26).
23. The laminated composite material according to claim 11, wherein the flexible network layer (34) comprises a material having a high degree of friction.
24. The laminated composite material according to claim 23, wherein the flexible network layer (34) comprises rubber.
25. The laminated composite material according to claim 11, further including a liquid-permeable cover layer (18), the liquid-absorbant layer (16) being positioned between the liquid permeable cover layer (18) and the liquid-impermeable layer (14).
26. The laminated composite material according to claim 25, wherein at least one of the liquid-permeable cover layer (18) and the liquid-absorbant layer (16) includes a hydrophobic material.

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27. The laminated composite material according to claim 25, further including a bonding agent (26) provided on a plurality of bonding positions (36) spaced apart from one another and distributed on the liquid-absorbant layer (16) for bonding the liquid-absorbant layer (16) to the liquid-permeable cover layer (18).
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Respectfully submitted,

FACTOR & PARTNERS, LLC

Dated: January 24, 2002

  
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